

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 7-9, and 11-16 are currently pending in the present patent application, with claims 1, 5-6, 10, and 17-29 having been cancelled through the above claim amendments.

In an Office Action mailed 16 September 2004, the Examiner allowed claim 9 and indicated claims 7 and 11-14 would be allowable if appropriately rewritten in independent form. Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form and is accordingly allowable. Dependent claims 2-4 and 8 ultimately depend from amended claim 7 and thus are also allowable. Similarly, claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form, and therefore claim 11 and the associated dependent claims 12-14 are also allowable. Independent claim 15 has been amended to include limitations recited in amended claim 11 and is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 11. Dependent claim 16 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 15.

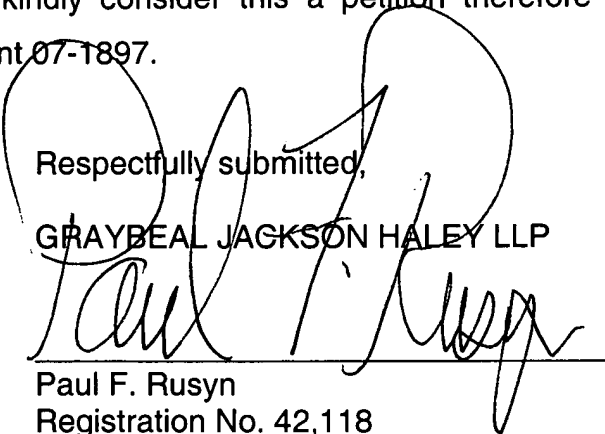
All pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Rewriting of independent claims 7 and 11 should be construed as narrowing the scopes of these claims. A dependent claim shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers and adds additional limitations, as provided by 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 4. Thus, the rewritten claims 7 and 11 include the exact same limitations as they did originally and the scope of such claims thus has not been narrowed. Moreover, claims 1, 5-6, 10, and 17-29 have been cancelled merely to expedite issuance of the present application and this should not be construed as having forfeited equivalents corresponding to the scopes of these cancelled claims. Applicants may elect to pursue identical or even broader claims through subsequent continuation applications or through a reissue application on a patent issuing from the present application.

The present patent application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further questions about the application, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at (425) 455-5575 to resolve the matter. If any need for any fee in addition to that paid with this response is found, for any reason or at any point

during the prosecution of this application, kindly consider this a petition therefore and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account 07-1897.

Respectfully submitted,

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